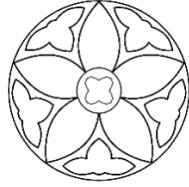


SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, April 30, 2023
Eleven O'clock

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Morning Worship

*You are invited to stand as you are able in body and spirit.

The Gathering

Words of Welcome and Grace

We welcome each of you to this service! No matter who you are or where you are from, you are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

Prelude

Come Thou Fount

Craig Phillips

*The Call to Worship

One: Come, you who thirst for grace.

All: Come, you who hunger for justice.

One: Come, you who are a stranger in a strange land.

All: Come, you who are like a child at home.

One: Come, for Christ welcomes you to this time and place.

All: We have come to worship God.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 529 | How Firm a Foundation

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Hear us, Lord. We confess we have gone astray. Shepherd us, Lord. We confess we often love You half-heartedly. Make us whole, Lord. We confess we trivialize Your sacrifice. Give us perspective, Lord. We confess we find most of our strength in ourselves. Be our strength, Lord. We confess little zeal for Your glory. Give us passion, Lord. We confess we've done so many things wrong. Forgive us, Lord. We confess we often don't love You well. Love us, Lord. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who exchanges our confession for abundant life in Christ.

One: Hear the good news: Our lives are indeed abundant when we live in Christ. We need only turn to God in humble confession. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*The Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

All: And also, with you.

We offer each other signs of peace.

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (God), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclamation of God's Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Anthem

Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee

Johannes Brahms

Let nothing ever grieve thee, distress thee, nor fret thee; heed God's good will, my soul. Be still, compose thee. Why brood all day in sorrow? Tomorrow will bring thee God's help benign, and grace sublime in mercy. Be true in all endeavors and ever ply bravely. What God decrees, brings joy and peace. He'll stay thee. Amen.

*Doxology

UMH No. 94 | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*The Gospel Lesson

John 10: 1-10

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Message for the Younger Church

All children are invited to come up to the chancel area.

*Hymn of Preparation

UMH No. 480 | O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

New Testament Lesson
2 Corinthians 12: 6-10

One: The Word of God for the people of God
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon
Conversations of the Heart: Experiencing Failure

Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* universal

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication
UMH No. 400 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Benediction

Postlude
Phoenix Processional

Dan Locklair

Saint Mark Welcome Statement

As a United Methodist Church we are proud to be a congregation with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We strive to be a congregation that embodies God's absolute love and hospitality, proclaiming Jesus as our savior and as our model of the ultimate embodiment of God's love. We believe that all persons are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's good creation. Saint Mark United Methodist Church welcomes all persons into the full life and ministry of our congregation, regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family, or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history.

We Welcome You

Welcome! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today!



Attendance

Please sign the attendance pad located at the end of your row or scan this QR code to register your attendance and share prayer requests using our online Connection Card.

Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use the Secure Giving App, or Saint Mark's assigned number for text donations is 844-703-1444 and the keyword is 'operating'. To give via text, text the word 'operating', a space, and the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text 844-703-1444 operating 25. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

We Invite You

Want to stay updated on the Saint Mark Community?

Visit www.stmarkumc.org and subscribe to the newsletter on the homepage. We send our Remarks newsletter every Wednesday, a message from our Senior Pastor every Friday, and a Sunday Morning at Saint Mark email.

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Announcements & Special Events

- May 21:** Rev. Jess and Lauren are getting married. Help us celebrate Rev. Jess and Lauren at a Cupcake Social after second service. Your presence at the social is gift enough, but should you wish to give a gift as well, we will have a basket to accept cash gifts to put towards their wedding & baby funds.
- May 21:** Let it Sing | A Concert by Doronte Evans | RMN Fundraiser | 4 PM
- May 28:** Pentecost Sunday | Memorial Day Weekend | One Service | 10 AM
- June 4:** Cookout after the second service, details soon.
- June 25:** Larry Lucas is visiting Atlanta and is having a party. Join us after the second service for food, fun, and fellowship.
- July 9:** Cookout after the second service, details soon.

If you know your way around a grill and would be willing to volunteer to help us grill on June 4 or July 9, please contact Robert Gilleo in the church office.

Midtown MethEnds Meetings Return Home

Meetings have always been a critical part of 12 step programs. Midtown MethEnds will be returning home to Saint Mark beginning Tuesday, May 2. Our hope is that those who need this program will find their way home to Saint Mark. Meetings will be held Tuesdays & Thursdays | 5:45 PM – 6:45 PM & Saturdays | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in rooms 200 & 201.

Worship Team

- Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski, Elder in Full Connection, Florida Annual Conference and Emory University | Candler School of Theology | Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Church Leadership
- Liturgists:** Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
Kenny Smallhorn, Candler School of Theology Ministry Intern
Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation
Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry
- Music:** Jon Easter, Director of Fine Arts and Organist
- Audio Visual:** Jay Drew, Johnny Sims, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle
- Acolytes:** Sandi Keener & Landon Lockhart-Keener
- Ushers:** Joel Black, Bob Brown, Deana Hilton, Buddy Wofford, Head Usher
- Greeters:** Andy Davis & David Wilson



Welcome Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski

Emory University | Candler School of Theology
| Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant
Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation
and Church Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski is an ordained United Methodist Elder from the Florida Annual Conference. He has served in local churches for over twenty years, as well as chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Florida Annual Conference. He is a Candler graduate (98T) and has a Ph.D. in New Testament and Early Christianity from Iliff School of Theology | University of Denver. He has been a long time social-justice and civil rights advocate working in issues related to anti-racism, LGBTQ+ rights, poverty, and criminal justice reform and is committed to helping local churches (and the General Church) engage the world in a way that makes the Kingdom of God visible.

He is a lifelong Methodist who grew up in Lakeland, Florida, Rev. Opalinski has held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Annual Conference, including director of the Florida campus of Licensing School (a partnership with Candler), a member of the conference's Anti-Racism Task Force, an elected delegate to the 2020 General Conference of the UMC, and chair of the conference's Board of Ordained Ministry. He has also taught four terms in Candler's Course of Study program.

Describing himself as "a student of the Christian monastic tradition," Rev. Opalinski is the founder of Manaigh Nua ("the new monks" in Irish), an online community of people drawn to an intentional Christian life of prayer, study and justice within the context of their daily lives. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature and the North American Patristics Society.

His research interests include Methodist history/theology, Monasticism, Celtic Christianity, Contemplative Spirituality, and New Monastic expressions of church community.

He is married to Dr. Andra Opalinski, a member of Saint Mark, and together they have two beautiful daughters, Anna Brook and Emily.